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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 22nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SAMANA (Papua New Guinea)
(Vice-Chairman)

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In the absence of Mr. Hudyma (Ukraine), Mr. Samana (Papua New Guinea), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 79: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued) (A/48/403, A/49/114-S/1994/357, A/49/136, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/335, A/49/336 and A/49/479; A/C.4/49/L.12)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/49/L.12.

2. Mr. GOYOAGA (Uruguay) said that peace-keeping operations were conducted as a natural response to the requirements of the international community. Some operations were successful while others failed. The purpose of all such operations was to settle conflicts which could not be resolved within the existing international system. The task of the units carrying out peace-keeping measures and the activities of Member States in that area were changing in nature. The rhetoric which had accompanied the first attempts at conflict settlement had been supplanted by a detailed and careful study of the best way of pursuing the efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the system and equip it with the necessary machinery to ensure that the Security Council, the Secretariat and the other United Nations units received greater support from Member States.

3. The nature of the statements made by delegations had undergone a significant change at recent sessions. While earlier the talk had been mainly about the principles underlying peace-keeping operations and what was needed for the conduct of the operations, now the substantive aspects of the whole undertaking were being discussed. Without descending into excessive "micro-management", it was now possible to talk about "management" at the middle levels, embracing the machinery for consultations, the planning of the operations and their command and control, as well as their financing, the safety of civilian and military personnel, training and public information. In his statement in the plenary Assembly the President of Uruguay had described the general principles to which Uruguay adhered where peace-keeping operations were concerned.

4. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations was becoming more active, and its links with other organs of the United Nations system were being strengthened. One example of that development was the collaboration which had led to the positive proposal by Argentina and New Zealand for enhancing the consultations between the Security Council and troop-contributing Member States on the fundamental aspects of peace-keeping missions. Uruguay wholeheartedly welcomed the decision to hold such consultation meetings and hoped to receive the timetable for them in the near future.

5. Turning to a number of specific issues, he drew attention to the excellent results of the work of the United Nations Situation Centre, which was the most effective means of ensuring the provision of information about the most critical situations, information which was particularly important for the delegations of troop-contributing countries. However, it was a source of concern that the publication of the weekly reports on field operations had been discontinued. The delegation of Uruguay requested the Secretariat to review the provision of such information and ensure that it was disseminated to Member States or at least to troop contributors.

6. In the Fourth Committee and also as a member of the Committee on Information, Uruguay had proposed the establishment of a system for incorporating in peace-keeping operations the concept of "operations centre" as used in the contemporary world of information. The proposal should be implemented by means of closer cooperation with the Department of Public Information. The delegation of Uruguay supported the draft resolution which had been submitted.

7. Mr. ASHER (Nicaragua), speaking on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, said that the establishment of a new system of international security must be one of the fundamental tasks of the United Nations, and peace-keeping operations were one of the main means of performing that task. The aim of such operations under the new system must be not only the settlement of armed conflicts but also the expansion of the capacity of the United Nations system to eliminate the root causes of most of the crises, such as poverty and an inadequate level of development.

8. It was a cause for satisfaction that the United Nations had successfully carried out a peace-keeping operation in Central America, and the Central American countries believed that the operation could serve as an example of coordination between the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General and that it showed what successes could be achieved if due attention was given to the basic principles which should underpin peace-keeping operations - the principles of the peaceful settlement of disputes, the consent of all parties to the conflict, non-interference in internal affairs, and precise formulation of the operation's mandate. In that connection special attention should be given to the guidelines for the conduct of peace-keeping operations discussed by the Movement of Non-aligned Countries at its ministerial conference in Cairo in May 1994, the most important of which was the need to formulate precise mandates and establish a sound financial basis for the operations.

9. Many of the current peace-keeping operations included other elements in addition to the traditional measures. Although the operations were important for the maintenance of peace, they could not of themselves resolve all the conflicts occurring in the world. To judge by the summary of the discussion contained in the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/49/136), some delegations thought that more attention should be given to the root causes of conflicts, including extreme poverty, critical economic situations, and inadequate social development, and the Central American

countries endorsed that view. There was currently much talk about using peace-keeping operations for the provision of emergency aid, the restoration of democracy and the conduct of humanitarian activities. The Central American countries agreed that the provision of emergency aid to a stricken population, the rehabilitation of displaced persons and refugees and other humanitarian work were primarily matters for the United Nations to deal with.

10. The International Conference on Central American Refugees and the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, which constituted a model mechanism for post-conflict peace-building and were still operating as an instrument of preventive diplomacy, had played a fundamental role in the peace process in Central America. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were playing a special role. In that context, the Central American countries believed that, before deploying a peace-keeping operation, it should be determined whether the situation fell under the competence of the Security Council or of the General Assembly and its bodies.

11. The Central American countries endorsed the view of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs that humanitarianism comprised three elements - concern for the well-being and integrity of victims, strict observance of political neutrality and non-discrimination in the provision of assistance - and believed that those elements were of great importance in considering humanitarian issues, which were still the subject of discussions and disagreements among members of the Organization. As the Secretary-General noted in his report (A/48/403), even among the providers of assistance, there was much discussion as to how their activities should be related to the political and military aspects of a peace-keeping operation. The Central American countries stressed the need for a careful analysis of the situation and exhaustion of all available political and diplomatic resources before deploying a peace-keeping operation. They were also gratified to note that in his report the Secretary-General recognized the fact that humanitarian emergencies might also give early warning of potential conflicts.

12. In view of the extremely rapid growth of expenditure on peace-keeping operations, the Central American countries feared that that expenditure could detract from the financial resources devoted to development. According to available data, United Nations expenditure on the deployment of a given operation always exceeded the contributions of Member States, and also the resources available within the Organization. The expenditure involved in approving or extending the mandates of peace-keeping operations must be more carefully estimated and all Member States must pay their contributions on time and in full. It was also indicated in the Special Committee's report that developing countries which were troop contributors were concerned about delays in reimbursement. The Central American countries believed that it was important to strengthen the financial base of peace-keeping operations so that even countries with limited resources could take part in them. In that connection, they supported the Special Committee's recommendation regarding the improvement of financial control in order to achieve greater transparency in the use of resources and welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to create a sound

financial base for the Organization, paying particular attention to the current methods of budgeting for peace-keeping operations.

13. Section B of the Special Committee's report referred to consultation and coordination mechanisms; the countries of Central America welcomed the proposal put forward by Argentina and New Zealand in the Security Council regarding a mechanism for consultations with troop-contributing countries. They were convinced that an informal system of consultations of that nature would help bring about more active political support for peace-keeping operations.

14. Post-conflict peace-building was of particular importance to the Central American countries, since they knew from their own experience the difficulties associated with the processes of reconstruction, reconciliation and renewal. They agreed with the Secretary-General that post-conflict peace-building required much more coordination than in the past between the United Nations and its specialized agencies. They had often asserted that the least expensive and most effective "peace-keeping operation" for the United Nations was the promotion of peaceful economic and social development, poverty reduction and the alleviation of social tension.

15. Although the expectations of peoples in connection with the end of the cold war had not yet been met, the international community was once again placing its hopes in the United Nations, and it was therefore necessary to review the direction of the work of the Organization with a view to achieving the goals laid down by its founders. Under the new conditions, the main objectives of the United Nations were strict observance and consistent implementation of the principles of the Charter, since not only the authority of the Organization, but also the well-being of millions of people, would depend on that.

16. Mr. CARDENAS (Argentina) said that peace-keeping operations were currently among the main efforts being made by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security. Argentina had sent more than 1,500 people to participate in ongoing peace-keeping operations. In recent years, over 7,500 Argentines had participated in the work of peace-keeping missions. In 1994, Argentina had sent a fleet of helicopters for the Argentine battalion in the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), and also 100 civilian police to Haiti, and it was prepared to provide additional assistance when the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was officially deployed.

17. After an exhaustive analysis of the questions within its sphere of competence, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had submitted a draft resolution containing its conclusions. Argentina continued to follow with interest the work of the Standby Arrangements Planning Team established on the initiative of the Secretary-General. His Government, as in the past, noted with deep concern the problems associated with payments for depreciation and/or use of equipment provided to the Organization by States. It seemed unfair that States participating in peace-keeping operations should get back their equipment and vehicles in a damaged state, and not be paid any compensation.

18. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's tireless efforts to strengthen Secretariat bodies responsible for peace-keeping operations, and noted in particular the work of the Situation Centre, the Planning Division and the Training Unit. Argentina was not indifferent to the changes taking place in the Secretariat and, within the limits of its resources and at no cost to the Organization, had placed its qualified military personnel at the Organization's disposal for participation in various peace-keeping operations. In 1993, Argentina had submitted a proposal on the reorganization of United Nations air operations, which had been implemented to a considerable extent by the Secretariat.

19. His delegation was closely monitoring the Organization's implementation of "An Agenda for Peace", and welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts in the field of preventive diplomacy. His delegation and the delegation of New Zealand had made a proposal on enhancing the effectiveness of communication among troop-contributing States, the Secretariat and the States members of the Security Council. An informal consultations mechanism should be established to enable countries whose troops were participating in peace-keeping operations to make statements in the Council at crucial moments, for example, when a mandate was being extended or broadened. It would be useful for the Council to receive information directly from States that had sent their citizens to conflict areas.

20. His delegation re-emphasized the need for the Organization to conduct an effective policy in the field of public information on peace-keeping activities. The population of the country in which a United Nations operation was being carried out should receive at least a minimum of information on the objectives of the international presence and the ways in which such objectives were to be achieved. Such information should also be provided to the populations of troop-contributing States.

21. His delegation attached paramount importance to activities to ensure the safety of peace-keeping personnel. It had participated actively and would continue to participate in the work of the Sixth Committee in that area, and it welcomed the draft convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel.

22. Mr. ZUR (Israel) said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's report on improving the capacity of the United Nations for peace-keeping and highly appreciated the efforts of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. Israel was seeking to contribute to efforts to overcome the main problems facing the world. As the peace process in the Middle East gained momentum, Israel hoped that it would be able to devote more resources and attention to peace-keeping in other areas of the world. Thus, as part of the international effort under United Nations auspices, Israel had already sent 30 police officers to Haiti, six Israeli observers had participated in the first democratic all-race elections in South Africa and seven Israeli observers had served in Mozambique. Israel was willing, in principle, to contribute a fully staffed field hospital to one of the United Nations peace-keeping operations. Furthermore, Israel had provided the Secretary-General with a list of qualified Israeli civilian specialists who could serve in peace-keeping operations. Israel had also

offered assistance in mine clearance. Possibilities were being explored for continued cooperation between Israel and the United Nations through the leasing of equipment and matériel to the United Nations on a standby basis for the needs of peace-keeping forces.

23. Israel had a long tradition of providing humanitarian assistance to countries around the world and placed great emphasis on the civilian and humanitarian aspects of peace-keeping. It had been the first to respond to the request of the United Nations to provide assistance to Rwanda by establishing and operating a field hospital in Goma, Zaire, in cooperation with UNHCR and other international organizations. Israel's experience in rendering assistance in various domains encouraged it to believe that it could make substantial contributions to peace-keeping operations and related fields.

24. Mr. McKINNON (New Zealand) said that his delegation was pleased at the measures the Secretariat had taken to improve the Organization's capacity to manage peace-keeping operations and, in particular, commended the activities of the Situation Centre of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. At the same time, it was disappointing that the weekly digest of activities affecting peace-keeping operations had been discontinued; his delegation strongly urged that publication of the digest should be resumed.

25. His delegation had been surprised and dismayed at the opposition to its proposal to establish a Security Council committee to provide oversight of peace-keeping operations in accordance with Articles 29 and 44 of the Charter of the United Nations. That would enable troop-contributing countries to participate in decisions taken by the Council concerning the employment of their respective armed forces. At the same time, his delegation welcomed the Council's decision on new consultative processes with troop-contributors, which had been referred to in the statement by the President of the Council of 4 November 1994 (S/PRST/1994/62). The new processes entailed a regular series of meetings, chaired by the President of the Council, to exchange views and information. The Council's willingness to keep those arrangements under review and consider further measures to enhance them was also commendable. Continuous attention must be given to the Council's practice of consulting countries that were neighbours of the States in which peace-keeping operations were being carried out, since that would help strengthen those countries' support for such operations.

26. His delegation paid tribute to the peace-keepers who had lost their lives in United Nations peace-keeping operations and noted with satisfaction the progress that had been made in the negotiation of the draft convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel. He looked forward to the early signing and ratification of the convention by Member States.

27. With regard to command and control, New Zealand noted the importance of national command structures refraining from seeking to give operational direction to forces that they had contributed to the United Nations. Unambiguous command and control arrangements, and compatibility between the military force commander and the civilian head of mission, were essential

prerequisites for a successful operation. There was also much to be said for the early establishment of force headquarters staff. Greater commonality in military doctrine should be developed for peace-keeping forces. There should be a clearer understanding of the appropriate rules of engagement, particularly in those operations in which the mandate contained elements of peace enforcement. Lightly armed peace-keepers must have the protection of sufficient flexibility in the event of their being caught up in an uncontrolled escalation of hostilities.

28. A key challenge for the Organization was to improve its ability to respond in a timely and effective manner to crises as they occurred. Stand-by arrangements, and training and equipment reserves, were part of the answer. Some interesting initiatives had been outlined in the course of the general debate.

29. Peace-keeping continued to face a financial crisis. The situation required urgent action. Member States had to pay their contributions in full and on time. In a situation where some countries claimed that they could not pay, while others simply would not pay, the issue had to be tackled head on by the General Assembly. It could not be accepted indefinitely that non-payers could expect to enjoy the same rights as Member States in good standing. Efforts should also be made to reduce serious inequities which had crept into the scale of assessments on which peace-keeping contributions were based.

30. The draft resolution addressed such a wide range of issues, and was so comprehensive, that at times it was difficult to see the wood for the trees. His delegation believed that in 1995 it would be desirable for the Committee and the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations to examine their methods of work on the item. Since the Special Committee was in effect open to any Member State which requested observer status, and acted as an open-ended committee, it could serve as the forum for a thorough discussion of peace-keeping issues. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication owing to the fact that the recommendations of the Special Committee were revisited in the Fourth Committee, he suggested some options for altering the situation. One such option was to follow the practice of many other committees and simply note the Special Committee's report; specific draft resolutions on key topics debated by the Special Committee could then be considered. Alternatively, the Special Committee's recommendations could be cast in the form of draft resolutions, annexed to its report and presented to the Committee for adoption; or the Special Committee's report could be streamlined in order to highlight the new decisions which it had taken or recommended.

31. His delegation considered that the keys to improved performance on peace-keeping were that the United Nations should receive the resources that Member States were legally obliged to contribute; that there should be greater political accountability and transparency in decision-making; and that further work should be done on command, training and logistics matters. The most critical factor of all was that the membership of the Organization should have the will to act collectively when collective action was required.

32. Mr. SHRESTHA (Nepal) said that peace-keeping operations were the most important means for resolving conflicts and promoting peace in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In his delegation's view, the effectiveness of any peace-keeping operation depended on its having a clear and precise mandate, supported by adequate human and material resources, together with a carefully phased plan. Other key elements were a consultative mechanism and unity of command. In that connection his delegation welcomed the statement by the President of the Security Council on 4 November 1994 on the arrangements for consultations between the Security Council, the Secretary-General and troop-contributing countries.

33. As a troop-contributing country, Nepal was concerned by the increasing number of casualties among personnel of United Nations peace-keeping operations and in that connection welcomed the finalization of the draft convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel.

34. He noted with satisfaction the growing importance attached to the training of personnel. He also supported the idea of mobile training teams.

35. His delegation fully shared the Secretary-General's concern regarding the Organization's financial difficulties and was of the view that the cost of peace-keeping operations was the collective responsibility of Member States. The notion of a unified budget, as put forward by the Secretary-General, therefore merited attention, as did the proposal to give the Secretary-General financial authority. The idea of stand-by forces was also a welcome one, although it needed further elaboration. With regard to regional arrangements, Nepal recognized the role that such arrangements could play in complementing the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations efforts for peace.

36. Lastly, he said that experience in peace-keeping operations had shown that the application of Chapter VI of the Charter was the best means for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. His country had therefore lent its full support to the Secretary-General's proposal for preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution as set out in his report entitled "An Agenda for Peace".

37. Mr. MAHMOUD (Lebanon) said that peace-keeping was the main activity of the United Nations in the international political arena. It was a practical means of improving the political environment and promoting more positive and productive relations within and among nations. While noting the courage and professionalism of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), his delegation regretted that UNIFIL had been unable for a number of reasons to implement its mandate as stated in Security Council resolution 425 (1978). Lebanon expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General and his assistants for their tireless efforts to maintain the UNIFIL presence in southern Lebanon and expressed the hope that Lebanon would one day be able to participate itself in United Nations peace-keeping efforts.

38. He shared the Secretary-General's view regarding the role of public information in promoting understanding and generating support at both the national and international levels.

39. With regard to problems relating to staff safety, his delegation was pleased to note the successful conclusion of negotiations on the preparation of an international convention dealing with the protection of United Nations and associated personnel.

40. Lebanon emphasized the need for active involvement by all Member States in United Nations peace-keeping operations and for an objective approach by the Security Council to such matters. A selective approach could undermine the credibility of the Organization and its activities, particularly its peace-keeping operations.

41. In conclusion, he said that his delegation commended the Secretary-General's initiative aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations peace-keeping apparatus and expressed the hope that the United Nations would in time play a more active role in preventive diplomacy.

42. Mr. MUTHAURA (Kenya) said that United Nations peace-keeping operations were a valuable and sometimes indispensable means of conflict management. Kenya, which had contributed both military and police personnel to various operations world wide, was happy to be associated with such operations.

43. Kenya welcomed the principles for the conduct of peace-keeping operations, for their effective management and, in line with the Charter, for encouraging support for their mandates. The recent practice whereby members of the Security Council, including its President, attended meetings between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries was to be welcomed. His delegation fully agreed with the Secretary-General that the new practice constituted a significant step towards the development of improved mechanisms for effective consultation. Such consultations were particularly important when the Security Council was considering changes to or extensions of existing missions.

44. Consultations with countries adjacent to the conflict zone were equally important when the Security Council was considering the establishment or termination of peace-keeping missions. Given the consequences of such conflicts for neighbouring countries, it was difficult to accept that they should merely be informed about peace-keeping operations. Kenya had an 800-kilometre-long border with Somalia and had sheltered thousands of Somali refugees. The conflict had taken a heavy toll of human life in Kenya's border regions, not to mention the destruction of property and livestock and extensive damage to the ecosystem. Kenya had also played a major role in providing transit facilities for United Nations operations on behalf of Somalia.

45. Regular consultations with the Security Council were therefore of paramount importance for Kenya. Security Council resolution 954 (1994) concerning the mandate of the current United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) had addressed the concerns of neighbouring countries. Kenya strongly felt that the draft resolution on the agenda item under discussion should have been more explicit in addressing the question of consultations with countries adjacent to a country of conflict. Effective consultations should contribute to the enhancement of the Security Council's decisions and their implementation. In

that regard, the recognition in the statement by the President of the Security Council of 4 November 1994 of the importance of consultations not only with troop-contributing countries but also with affected countries, especially those belonging to a particular region, was to be welcomed. It was to be hoped that that issue would be more adequately addressed during the next round of meetings of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

46. Kenya appreciated the Organization's efforts in the areas of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-building, which formed an important basis for a lasting peace. In that connection, particular attention should be paid to the establishment of early warning systems, the dispatch to potential conflict areas of fact-finding or observer missions and the establishment of observer posts in tension-filled areas, with emphasis on confidence-building measures. Such efforts should, however, be in strict compliance with the provisions of the Charter regarding national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States. In that context, the United Nations should strengthen its cooperation with regional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter and provide the regional agencies with the necessary technical, logistic and financial assistance.

47. The effective and efficient implementation of peace-keeping operations required adequate funding, human resources, prompt deployment of personnel and objective organizational criteria. Peace-keeping forces should also be truly multinational. It was important for Member States to honour their financial obligations to the Organization through timely payment of assessed contributions and clearance of arrears. Timely payment of contributions would facilitate prompt reimbursement of troop-contributing countries, especially those with limited resources. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative aimed at making arrangements for stand-by forces. It believed that stand-by forces would result in the rapid assembly, deployment and effective operation of United Nations forces. It also welcomed the relevant sections of the resolution addressing those issues.

48. His delegation wished to underscore the importance of public information, which was adequately addressed in the draft resolution. It believed that the United Nations had previously done too little to inform local populations of the nature of its operations.

49. In conclusion, he paid tribute to the staff of the Secretariat and of all United Nations peace-keeping operations, commending the progress made in the elaboration of a Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. His delegation also supported the view of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations that the Secretary-General should initiate a dialogue with Member States on possible additional safety measures.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 147: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES ON THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES (continued) (A/C.4/49/L.10 and L.11)

50. Mr. BOCK (Austria), introducing draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.10 entitled "Enlargement of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", said that the question had already been under consideration for two years, but recently extensive informal consultations had been held on the subject by the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The results of the consultations held prior to the current session of the General Assembly were reflected in paragraphs 154 to 157 of the report of COPUOS (A/49/20). At the current session of the General Assembly, those consultations had continued, and Austria had felt that there was a need for a draft resolution.

51. Introducing draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.11 entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, including the question of the review of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies" on behalf of the Working Group on International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he briefly referred to the recent decisions and recommendations of COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies which were reflected in the relevant paragraphs of the draft resolution. He pointed out that the draft resolution also referred to agenda item 147, since in paragraph 42 the General Assembly would note the recommendation of COPUOS that, at its current session, the General Assembly should take no action on that question.

52. Mr. BERTRAND (France), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that his delegation intended to vote in favour of the two draft resolutions. At the same time, it was disappointed that there was no consensus which, as indicated in paragraph 156 of the report of COPUOS, was an essential condition for all decisions relating to the membership of COPUOS. His delegation hoped that in its future work COPUOS, as in the past, would adhere to the principle of unanimity of its members.

Draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.10

53. A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein,

Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

54. Draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.10 was adopted by 110 votes to 1.

55. Mr. DONLON (United States of America) said that his delegation was deeply concerned about developments in the work on expanding the membership of COPUOS. For a decade, his delegation and others had sought to maintain the principle of consensus as the sole basis for conducting the work of that Committee. Regrettably, there had always been sceptics who had little enthusiasm for consensus or for the spirit of good will, and now the sceptics had carried the day. His delegation could not support the draft resolution because it did not reflect the consensus agreement referred to in paragraphs 156 and 157 of the report of COPUOS (A/49/20). In light of those developments, the United States of America intended to review carefully the scope and nature of its future participation in the work of COPUOS.

56. Mr. GUILLEN (Peru), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, congratulated the countries which had become members of COPUOS under the procedures established by that Committee on the basis of consensus, including consultations with the regional groups concerned. He hoped that the request for a vote on the question of the admission of new members to COPUOS would not create a precedent for the future work of the Committee either from the point of view of form or from the point of view of substance. On the question of the admission of new members to COPUOS, he drew attention to the need to preserve the spirit of cooperation and consensus which had always been inherent to the work of that Committee.

Draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.11

57. Draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.11 was adopted.

58. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda items 76 and 147.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.